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Inouye, Rudman to Head Senate Iran-Contra Probe

6 Democrats, 5 Republicans on Panel

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Senate leaders yesterday named Sens. Daniel K. Inouye (D-Hawaii) and Warren B. Rudman (R-N.H.) to head a moderate-to-conservative, Watergate-style select committee that is expected early next year to take over the Senate's probe of the secret U.S. sale of arms to Iran and diversion of profits to Nicaraguan rebels.

The appointments of Inouye as chairman and Rudman as ranking minority member were announced by Senate leaders Robert C. Byrd (D-W.Va.) and Robert J. Dole (R-Kan.), who will serve as majority and minority leaders, respectively, when the Senate reconvenes Jan. 6 under Democratic control.

The panel's six Democrats and five Republicans—most of whom have shunned the limelight of controversy over the administration's handling of the arms controversy—were named to the panel in anticipation of its creation by the Senate as one of its first orders of business next month.

A similar investigating committee of nine Democrats and six Republicans is to be named today by House leaders of both parties. Proposals for a joint congressional panel were rejected, and the two committees are expected to work independently.

Chosen along with Inouye, who is third-ranking in the Senate Democratic hierarchy, and Rudman, best known for his cosponsorship of the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings budget law, were an array of former prosecutors and judges, veterans of Watergate and other investigations and senior members of committees with vested interests in various aspects of the probe.

Four are members of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, which has been conducting the Senate's only inquiry thus far of the arms sale controversy. The intelligence panel is expected to complete hearings this week and turn its findings over to the new committee, which will use the record as the

launching pad for its own more comprehensive and potentially lengthy probe.

In addition to Inouye, who served on the Senate's select committee that investigated Watergate, Democrats on the panel will be:

■ Sam Nunn (Ga.), incoming chairman of the Armed Services Committee and a member of the intelligence panel.

■ David L. Boren (Okla.), who will take over as chairman of the intelligence committee.

■ George J. Mitchell (Maine), a former federal district judge and chairman of the campaign committee that helped return the Senate to Democratic control.

■ Paul S. Sarbanes (Md.), who served on the House Judiciary Committee when it considered President Richard M. Nixon's impeachment and who now serves on both the Judiciary and Foreign Relations panels of the Senate.

■ Howell Heflin (Ala.), a former chief justice of the Alabama Supreme Court and member of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Heflin, Nunn and Boren are among the Senate's most conservative Democrats, and all of Byrd's appointees are regarded as loyalists, most of them entrusted in the past by Byrd with sensitive chores. Few if any have taken particularly partisan positions in regard to the administration's handling of the arms controversy. "Not a bomb thrower among them," said a Republican colleague. "I don't think you'll find them rushing to judgment," said Byrd.

Chosen by Dole to serve with Rudman, a former attorney general of New Hampshire, are Republicans William S. Cohen (Maine), who will be ranking GOP member of the intelligence committee; Orrin G. Hatch (Utah), a member of both the intelligence and judiciary committees, and James G. McClure (Idaho) and Paul S. Trible (Va.), both of whom are former prosecutors.

On the House side, House Speaker-designate James C. Wright Jr. (D-Tex.) has already named five committee chairmen to the 15-member panel: Rep. Dante B. Fascell (D-Fla.), Foreign Affairs Committee chairman; Government Operations Committee Chairman Jack Brooks (D-Tex.); Armed Services Committee Chairman Les Aspin (D-Wis.); Judiciary Committee Chairman Peter W. Rodino Jr. (D-

N.J.), and Rep. Louis Stokes (D-Ohio), who will head the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

Rep. Thomas S. Foley (D-Wash.), who will be majority leader, is also expected to be named, along with Rep. Lee H. Hamilton (D-Ind.), outgoing intelligence committee chairman, and Rep. Edward P. Boland (D-Mass.), a former intelligence committee chairman.

House Minority Leader Robert H. Michel (R-Ill.) is expected to include among his six appointees Rep. William S. Broomfield (R-Mich.), ranking minority member on House Foreign Affairs; Rep. Henry J. Hyde (R-Ill.), ranking minority member on the House intelligence committee, and Rep. Dick Cheney (R-Wyo.), chairman of the House Republican policy committee.

On the Senate panel, Hatch and McClure are leaders of the party's right wing and their appointments could help placate conservative edginess over the high-profile role that has been taken by Dole, a prospective candidate for the Republican presidential nomination in 1988, in pressing the White House to clear the air over the arms-sale furor.

At his joint news conference with Byrd to announce the appointments, Dole acknowledged the GOP's stake in hastening an end to the controversy.

"Whatever may have happened . . . it happened on our watch with a Republican administration and we have a special responsibility to the American people," Dole said.

He played down the likelihood of major new revelations from the select committee's probe. "Most of what you'll see you've already seen," he said.

Conspicuous by their absence from Dole's choices were Republicans who have urged dismissal of top administration figures who were involved in any way in the arms-sale operation. Similarly absent from Byrd's choices were Democrats who have publicly suggested that the president may have sanctioned any breaking of the law.

Asked if the panel was given a conservative coloration to enhance its credibility in probing a conservative administration, Heflin said, "I think that's a fair conclusion."

Republican panel members met briefly yesterday with Dole, and Democrats are expected to meet with Byrd today. A meeting of the full committee is expected by week's end to lay the groundwork for a quick start-up of operations when the 100th Congress convenes in less than three weeks.